

REMARKS

Claims 28 - 38, which have been allowed in the parent application (U.S. Application Serial No. 09/932,396), have been cancelled without prejudice.

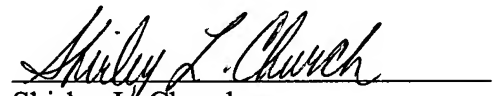
Claims 1 - 27 were cancelled from the parent application in response to a Restriction Requirement mailed November 20, 2002.

Claims 1, 2, 9, 13, 15 - 19, 23, 26, and 27 have been amended, as set forth above, to correct informalities present within the original claim language.

Applicants believe that the presently pending claims are in condition for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to enter the present amendment and to pass the application to allowance.

The Examiner is invited to contact applicants' attorney with any questions or suggestions, at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Shirley L. Church", is written over a horizontal line.

Shirley L. Church
Registration No. 31,858
Attorney for Applicants
(650) 473-9700

Correspondence Address:
Patent Counsel
Applied Materials, Inc.
P.O. Box 450-A
Santa Clara, CA 95052